

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 IO-14

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R 041046Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5455

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - LINE ADDED TO SUMMARY)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINR, GW

SUBJECT: FDP PARTY CONGRESS: THE PERSONALITIES

REF: BONN 15663

SUMMARY: THE EMERGENCE OF FRIDERICH AS NUMBER TWO

MAN IN THE FDP HAS GIVEN THE FDP A CLEARER IMAGE AS

"A PARTY OPEN TO ALL SIDES." GENSCHER, THE "MASTER

STRATEGIST," PERFORMED REASONABLY WELL IN A DIFFICULT

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SITUATION, BUT HE HAS BEEN GIVEN NOTICE THAT THIS

LEADERSHIP COULD BE PUT TO THE TEST. THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL, BANGEMANN, CONSIDERED A "WILD LEFTIST" UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, HAS STARTED TO FEEL HIS WAY AROUND THE CENTER AS HE BEGINS TO DEFINE HIS ROLE. END SUMMARY

1. HANS FRIDERICH'S VICTORY OVER WERNER MAIHOFFER FOR THE VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP, ALTHOUGH CLEARLY A DEFEAT FOR THE FDP'S "LEFT," BY NO MEANS SIGNIFIES A VICTORY FOR THE "RIGHT"--LABELS WHICH IN ANY CASE ARE HIGHLY RELATIVE AS FAR AS THE FDP IS CONCERNED. MAIHOFFER, THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGUE AND PHILOSOPHER (CALLED THE FATHER OF THE FDP'S FREIBURG THESES), WAS RECRUITED TO THE FDP BY SCHEEL IN 1969 AND BECAME A MEMBER OF THE FDP PRAESIDIUM IN 1970. MAIHOFFER'S BRIEF EXPERIENCE IN THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ENTIRELY DURING THE PERIOD OF THE SPD-FDP COALITION. MAIHOFFER HAS COME TO SYMBOLIZE FDP "PROGRESSIVISM" AND REFORM POLITICS; ALTHOUGH HE MAY BE CAPABLE OF POLITICAL PRAGMATISM, HE HAS NEVER BEEN PUT TO THE TEST. HE HAS NEVER PUBLICLY INDICATED ANY READINESS TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE EVENTUAL DESIRABILITY OF AN FDP COALITION WITH THE CDU--ON THE CONTRARY, HE HAS REPEATEDLY PUT HIMSELF OUT ON THE LIMB WITH PUBLIC AND UNEQUIVOCAL EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE FDP-SPD COALITION "UNTIL 1980, AT LEAST."

2. FRIDERICH, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS PREACHED THE NECESSITY FOR THE FDP TO BE "OPEN," IN PRINCIPLE, TO COALITION WITH EITHER THE CDU OR THE SPD, AND HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE FDP MUST CHOOSE ITS COALITION PARTNER ON THE BASIS OF PRACTICAL POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. HE HAS DEMONSTRATED THIS APPROACH IN HIS OWN CAREER.

3. ALTHOUGH FRIDERICH IS OFTEN CONSIDERED TO HAVE A "PRO-CDU" AND A "RIGHTIST FDP" PROFILE, HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN MOVING THE FDP TOWARD A COALITION WITH THE SPD IN 1969, AND HIS CREDENTIALS AS A "PROGRESSIVE" ARE FAIRLY GOOD, PARTICULARLY ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

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4. FRIDERICH, AGE 43, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN FDP POLITICS SINCE 1956. HE CAME UP THROUGH THE PARTY ORGANIZATION IN RHINELAND-PFALZ, WAS BROUGHT BY GENSCHER TO FDP NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN BONN IN 1963, AND SUCCEEDED GENSCHER AS FDP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN 1964. HE SERVED IN THAT POST AND AS A BUNDESTAG DEPUTY UNTIL 1969. HE PLAYED AN ACTIVE PART IN EFFORTS TO MOVE THE FDP IN THE DIREC-

TION OF THE SPD AND SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED THE FDP
ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN 1969--THEN SURPRISINGLY RESIGNED
HIS BUNDESTAG SEAT IN FAVOR OF A STATE SECRETARY
POST IN THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY OF THE CDU-FDP
GOVERNMENT IN RHINELAND-PFALZ, A POSITION WHICH HE
RETAINED EVEN AFTER THE FDP LEFT THE COALITION WITH
THE RHINELAND-PFALZ CDU IN SPRING 1971. FRIDERICH'S
REASONS HAVE NEVER BEEN ENTIRELY CLEAR--SOME
SUGGEST IT WAS ONLY PERSONAL ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS--
BUT IT IS OFTEN HEARD THAT SCHEEL ASKED FRIDERICH'S
TO REMAIN IN RHINELAND-PFALZ TO MAINTAIN FDP CON-
TACTS WITH THE CDU. IN ANY EVENT, FRIDERICH'S
DEVELOPED CLOSE TIES WITH HELMUT KOHL, AND SERVED

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FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

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